THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The measures adopted to check air and water pollution include the following:

(i) Effluent and emission standards have been prescribed.

(ii) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries.

(iii) Industries have been asked to comply with consent requirements of the State Pollution Control Boards.

(iv) Industries have been directed to install necessary polittion control equipment on a time bound basis and legal action is taken against the defaulting units.

(v) Notification of ambient air quality standards has been issued.

(vi) Central Pollution Control Boards regularly monitors the water quality of Yamuna and of the ground water in Delhi and State Pollution Control Boards have been requested to do the same in the various rivers in the States.

(vii) Government of India has notified noise standards for industrial, commercial and residential areas and silence zones.

(viii) Codes of practice has been evolved for operation of various equipments to ensure that noise levels are maintained within the prescribed limits.

(xi) Unleaded petrol have been introduced in four metropolitan cities in the country with effect from 1st April, 1995.

(b) Use of coal with a high ash content and improper treatment of emisions and effluent from power plants results in the deterioration of ambient air quality soil degradation and in some cases water pollution.

"Decline in teak stocks"

3549. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any particular attention has been paid by the Government of India to the rapidly declining teak stocks in Palavaram Range and Kannapuram Range in West Godavari District;

(b) whether any report has been called from the Government of Andhra Pradesh on the status of teak forests in above two ranges; and

(c) what are the details of measures proposed to ensure greater protection to existing teak plantations in such area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c). Information is being collected and would be placed on the Table of the House.

Functioning of State Pollution Control Boards"

3550. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to various criticism, particularly by the entrepreneurs, about the functioning of the pollution Control Boards in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of steps, if any, taken to ensure scrutiny of the functioning of Pollution Control Boards in States, particularly with a view to eliminate scope of harassment of the entrepreneurs; and